

Granholt Administration Year End Accomplishments

In reviewing the accomplishments of her administration in 2004, Granholt pointed to results that helped grow Michigan's economy:

- More than 130,000 new jobs created or retained in the state this year.
- 10 R&D companies announced new investments this year, maintaining the state's national #1 ranking for automotive R&D in the nation.
- 7 companies established new headquarters in Michigan this year.
- Firms with fewer than 100 employees increased by 2,400 from 2003 to 2004.
- Pushed for and signed legislation to help Michigan retain businesses and the jobs that go with them – resulted in the protection of Federal Mogul jobs and the attraction of Toyota's new R&D facility.
- Created a half-billion dollar pool of money to attract and keep entrepreneurs through the Emerging Business Fund, Venture Michigan Fund, and Small Business Growth Fund.
- Invested \$25 million in the Technology Tri Corridor to ignite investment in life sciences and high-tech job creating capabilities.
- Charged Commission on Higher Education with development of strategies to double the number of college graduates to create a highly-educated and well-trained workforce.
- Created 13 Skills Alliances to ensure that local job seekers are gathering the skills to fill the jobs that local job providers have available now and that new job providers will have available in the future.
- Reduced red tape for businesses seeking permits to open or expand by creating MITaps, an on-line, one-stop permitting shop – 35 permits for businesses are now available on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- DEQ's pilot air quality permitting process reduced permitting time from 18 months to 10 days.
- Turned 58 unused industrial sites into viable business sites.
- Companies working on bio-research in Michigan increased by 13 percent this year.
- Visteon Technical Center, Saab Cars USA, and Hyundai America Tech Centers all opened headquarters in Michigan this year, ensuring that Michigan maintains status as state with most North American automotive HQ in the country. Borg Warner and Affinia will establish headquarters here in next 12 months.
- Workers' compensation insurance rates are lower than neighboring states; will drop as much as 10 percent this year.
- Foreign investment in Michigan is growing – the metro Detroit area was ranked #2 in a national survey of European business investment in the states.

Governor Granholt also cited major accomplishments that impacted the lives of Michigan citizens in the areas of education, health care, the environment, and consumer protection, including:

- Reduced prescription drug costs for 20,000 people by introducing MIRx Card, providing discount prescription drugs to uninsured families.
- Proposed a rule that would cut insurance base rates and ban the use of insurance credit scoring.
- Improved access to health care for 300,000 uninsured citizens in Jackson and Detroit through creation of new federally-qualified health centers.
- Ensured minimal increases in tuition for college students.

- Redirected limited road funding to fix Michigan's worst roads first – repaired or preserved more than 4,200 miles of road repairs.
- Enrolled nearly 50,000 children in Healthy Kids and MiCHILD programs – exceeding state's goal by more than 25,000 children.
- Signed legislation creating a 24-hotline to report abuse in nursing homes.
- Sent nearly 800 parole violators and fugitive felons back to prison in statewide sweeps.
- Pushed for and signed legislation to reduce lead poisoning in Michigan's children.
- Doubled the number of Family Resource Centers providing family services in the state's highest-priority schools.
- Preserved education funding for state's school children; maintained K-8 educational standards as the most demanding in the nation.
- Sought major revisions of child care licensing standards to include new requirements for annual training for providers.
- Introduced sweeping legislation to prevent Great Lakes water from being diverted from our state.
- Preserved more than 48,000 acres of farmland, wetland and wildlife habitat.
- Had prisoners collect nearly 51,000 bags of trash off 6,400 miles of highway.
- Moved 4,600 parcels of abandoned property into a new state authority, ensuring they can finally be redeveloped and put to productive use.
- MEAP math scores for 4th and 8th graders increased; MEAP scores for high school students increased, including a 10-point gain in reading scores.
- 120 schools on the state's high priority list made AYP in 2004 and will not be on the list going into 2005.
- The proportion of 8th grade African American students meeting or exceeding MEAP standards in math increased 13%.
- Launched effort to create "Learn to Earn" centers in local communities to redirect high school dropouts back into learning centers where they can earn skills to contribute to the economy.
- Implemented 60 recommendations from the bipartisan Commission on Land Use that will protect Michigan's natural beauty and encourage development in our core cities.

Granholtz also noted that she has put the state's financial house back in order. She has eliminated a \$3 billion deficit in part by spending taxpayers' dollars more efficiently:

- Saved \$220 million in contract expenses.
- Saved \$13 million by eliminating 2,500 vehicles from the state fleet.
- Saved \$23 million by better managing state's rent.
- Saved \$60 million by restructuring the state's debt.
- Saved more than \$2 million in energy costs by turning off lights, powering down buildings and purchasing energy in bulk with universities.
- Saved \$14 million in administrative costs such as eliminating unnecessary cell phones and state credit cards, reducing travel and eliminating color copying.

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